

EPHESIANS 1:18-20

October 11, 2015 AM

EPHESIANS 1:15-23 (ESV)

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸**having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.**

1. What specific things does Paul pray for these Christians to know (vv. 18-19)?
2. What is the hope to which we have been called (v. 18)? See also Galatians 5:5; Colossians 1:5; Titus 2:13; 1 John 3:1-3.
3. What are the riches of God's glorious inheritance in the saints (v. 18)?
4. Four other times in Ephesians Paul also writes of the riches of God revealed and made available to believers (Eph. 1:7-8, 2:6-7, 3:8, & 3:16). What does this indicate to you about God's disposition toward his people?
5. Paul refers to "the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe" (v. 20). To demonstrate what he means by "power," what are two events in the life of Christ that Paul calls to mind? How do these events demonstrate the power of God?

6. Why do you think Paul prays for Christians to know (understand) these three things (hope, riches, power)? How do these three things relate back to Paul's earlier request for "the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him" (v. 17)?

7. What is one thing from the sermon that encouraged you, convicted you, or challenged you?

8. How should the knowledge that such power is available to us as Christians shape the way we live our daily lives, especially as we struggle with temptations and trials?

9. How does intercession naturally flow out of praise?

10. Spend some time praising God and then praying for fellow church members, following Paul's example.